

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109446
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 ERDA-05 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05 CEQ-01 CG-00
DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-01 FMC-01 JUSE-00 NSF-01
PA-01 PRS-01 /139 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:CF
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
L - MR HANSELL
EUR - MR ROWELL

-----140210Z 119437 /70

O R 132349Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
EUCOM
SECDEF
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELOS, EPOL, ENRG, TS, LY, IT
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PAGE 02 STATE 109446

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF-DISPUTE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN PHONE CONVERSATION WITH LEGAL ADVISOR HANSELL ON
MAY 13, READING AND BATES BOARD CHAIRMAN J.W. BATES INDI-
CATED THAT FIRM FULLY UNDERSTANDS REASONS FOR USG CONCERN,
BUT HAD ENTERED INTO CONTRACT TO DRILL IN DISPUTED AREA TO

SATISFY "VERY GOOD CUSTOMERS." BATES WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGE OF PLANS. BATES SAID ITALIAN OIL COMPANY HAD GUARANTEED PAYMENT AND STRONGLY IMPLIED, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED FROM FIRM'S COUNSEL HILLIN, THAT READING AND BATES' CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ARE TO ENI RATHER THAN TO LIBYAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY. DURING CONVERSATION, HANSELL MENTIONED THAT TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO USE FORCE, IF NECESSARY, TO STOP RIG FROM DRILLING TO SUPPORT TUNISIAN POSITION RE DISPUTED AREA.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM SEPARATE SOURCES THAT BUTTES PETROLEUM HAS OFFERED READING AND BATES RIG ANOTHER CONTRACT "ELSEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN" IF CONTRACT TO DRILL FOR LIBYA IS BROKEN, BUT THAT FIRM HAS SO FAR DECLINED THE OFFER.

3. OTHER SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT FRENCH DRILLING SHIP

"PENTAGONE" IS ENROUTE TO DRILL CONFIRMATION WELL FOR ELF/ACQUITAINE BEGINNING AROUND JUNE 5-8 IN LIBYAN CONCESSION AREA 137 AT MARKER B-1 (33 DEGREES 50' 40" N; 12 DEGREES 40' 24" E) WHICH IS ALSO IN DISPUTED ZONE.

4. FOR PARIS: EMBASSY MAY WISH TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER PARA 3 REPORT IS ACCURATE, AND HOW THIS WOULD SQUARE WITH ANY FRENCH MEDIATION EFFORT.

5. FOR ROME: REQUEST FURTHER INQUIRIES, IF POSSIBLE, WITH CONTACTS OUTSIDE FONMIN, AS TO GOI/ENI ROLE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 109446

CURRENT ATTEMPT TO SUBSTITUTE U.S. FOR ITALIAN PRESENCE IN DISPUTED ZONE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, CONTINENTAL SHELF, OFFSHORE DRILLING, PROGRESS REPORTS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF-DISPUTE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PLOS, MPOL, ENRG, TS, LY, IT
To: TUNIS PARIS MULTIPLE
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca98a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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